

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000

INRO RUTABA/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY TEHERAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USUN NEW YORK

USINT HAVANA

USIA

UNCLAS MOGADISCIO 0105

1. MINISTOR OF INFORMATION ABDELKASSIM SALAD HASSAN DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AND EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHES IN MOGADISCIO AT 1030Z ON JAN 16, 1978:

2. QTE AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT, MR. JIMMY CARTER, HAS RECENTLY PROPOSED PEACE INITIATIVES FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE UNITED STATES
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GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT THE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS AND RUSSIAN AND CUBAN TROOPS BEING POURED INTO ABYSSINIA.

3. THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT AND OTHER LEADERS OF PEACE-LOVING COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD HAVE RECENTLY BEEN CALLING FOR NON-INTERFERENCE OF OUTSIDE POWERS IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE HORN OF AFRICA AND THAT THE SIDES CONCERNED NEED TO SEARCH FOR A JUST AND PEACEFUL

SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.

4. THE PEACE CALL BY THE PEACE-LOVING COUNTRIES BROUGHT A VIOLENT REACTION FROM THE ABYSSINIAN REGIME, THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES , WHO INSTEAD OF WELCOMING AND VALUING THIS JUSTIFIED CONCERN, RESPONDED WITH BASELESS ACCUSATIONS AND UNDIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE.

5. ABYSSINIA'S VIOLENT REACTION TO THE PEACE INITIATIVE, WHICH IS CERTAINLY SHARED BY RUSSIA AND ITS ALLIES, UNCOVERED TO THE WORLD; - 5)- 5, THE PREPLANNED INVASION WHICH THIS UNHOLY ALLIANCE ARE INTENDING TO CARRY OUT AGAINST THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND AGAINST THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, DJIBOUTI, AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

6. IT IS CLEAR THAT SOON, THROUGH THIS UNHOLY PLAN, A LAND, SEA AND AIR ATTACK AGAINST THE SDR IS GOING TO BE CARRIED OUT BY ETHIOPIA, RUSSIA AND THEIR ALLIES IN ORDER TO OKUPY THE HIGHLY STRATEGIC AREAS OF SOMALIA. THIS BARBARIC INVASION AGAINST THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC IS INTENDED TO CHANGE BY FORCE THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF THE SDR.

7. THE PLAN OF THIS INVASION IS JOINTLY MASTERMINDED BY A SUPREME STRATEGIC MILITARY COMMAND COMPOSED OF EIGHT HIGHLY-RANKED RUSSIAN UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICERS, FOUR ETHIOPIANS AND THREE CUBANS, WHILE AT PRESENT, THE DEFENSE MINISTERS OF RUSSIA AND CUBA ARE SECRETLY IN ADDIS ABABA.

8. THE COORDINATION AND EXECUTION OF THIS SINISTER INVASION AGAINST THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE KREMLIN POLICY-MAKERS AND OF ITS WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES.

9. IT'S NOW BECOMING EXCEEDINGLY EVIDENT THAT THE QUANTITY AND THE HIGHLY-SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS INCLUDING MISSILES AND JET FIGHTERS, TANKS AND ARTILLERY POURING INTO ETHIOPIA BY AIR AND SEA, EXCEEDS BY FAR THE LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS OF THAT COUNTRY, AND THEREFORE THIS IMPLIES THAT THIS SINISTER INVASION IS EXPECTED SOON.

10. THE ABYSSINIANS WHO ARE SERVING THE STRATEGIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS OF THE KREMLIN ARE DENYING AND BLOCKING ANY SUCCESSFUL AND PEACEFUL EFFORTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, ADJACENT AREAS, AND AFRICA AT LARGE.

11. THE ADDIS ABABA REGIME HAS ACCUSED THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT OF SECRETLY SUPPLYING ARMS TO SOMALIA, AND IN THE SAME MANNER HAS ACCUSED SOMALIA OF AGGRESSION WHICH IS BEYOND CREDIBILITY, THE AIM

BEING TO COVER UP THE HIGE ARMAMENTS BEING POURED INTO THEIR HANDS
BY THE RUSSIANS AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF CUBANS AND OTHER FOREIGN TROOP
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HIRED TO SUBDUE THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND TO INVADE THE SOMALI
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND OTHERS. THE SDR REITERATES ITS OFF-STATED
DECLARATION THAT ITS TROOPS HAVE NEVER INVADED ABYSSIAN TERRITORY AND
THAT THE WAR BETWEEN THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, FIGHTING FOR THEIR
SELF-DETERMINATION AND FREEDOM, AND THE ADDIS ABABA COLONIAL TROOPS
AND THOSE WHO ARE SUPPORTING THEIR OPPRESSION. THE WORLD IS WELL
AWARE THAT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS THE ABYSSIANIAN ARMED FORCES HAVE
CARRIED OUT WANTON AGGRESSIONS AGAINST THE SDR, AND THAT THEIR AIR
FORCE CARRIED OUT RAIDS AGAINST HEAVILY-POPULATED CENTERS SUCH AS
HARGEISA, BERBERA, TUG WAJELLE, MERCILESSLY KILLING INNOCENT CIVILIAN
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AND DESTROYING PROPERTY.

12. IN SPITE OF BEING THE VICTIM OF ABYSSINIAN AGRESSION, THE
SOMALI GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN PATIENCE IN THE FACE OF THESE WILD
PROVOCATIONS IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID THE
INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE CONFLICT AS THE ABYSSINIAN REGIME,
WHICH EXECUTES SOVIET INTERESTS AND WANTS.

13. IT'S A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT THE SDR FULLY SUPPORTS THE LIBERATIO
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MOVEMENTS TOWARDS THE REALIZATION OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE, BUT THAT
DOES NOT PREVENT THE SDR FROM ASSISTING IN THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE LIBERATION FORCES AND THE
COLONIAL FORCES. THE POLICY OF THE SDR IS NOT BASED ON EMOTION AND
IT BELIEVES THAT THE DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA
WILL REACH A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT IF THEY ARE LEFT ALONE
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14. THE SDR WANTS TO REITERATE ITS READINESS TO FULLY FULFILL ITS
RESPONSIBILITIES AS A NEIGHBORING AFRICAN COUNTRY IN ANY JUST AND
PEACEABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

15. THE SDR CALLS ON THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE
MENACING SITUATION CREATED IN THE HORN OF AFRICA BY THE ADDIS ABABA
REGIME, RUSSIA AND CUBA AND OTHERS BEFORE IT BECOMES TOO LATE. AT
THE SAME TIME THE SDR WARNS THAT CHEAP PROPAGANDA AND UNFOUNDED
ALLEGATIONS BEING FRAMED BY THE ABYSSINIANS AND RUSSIANS AGAINST THE
SDR AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN A PEACEFUL SOLUTION,
WILL ONLY AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION.

16. THE SDR APPRECIATES THE FACT THAT RECENTLY AN EVER-INCREASING
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ARE REALIZING THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SITUATION
AND EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERN OVER THE EXCESSIVE BUILDUP OF
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SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS AND THE INCREASE IN THE SIZEABLE NUMBER OF
SOVIET AND CUBAN COMBAT TROOPS IN ABYSSINIA, WHICH IS DETRIMENTAL TO
THE PEOPLE OF THE HORN OF AFRICA AND POSES DANGER TO THE PASSAGE OF
INTERNATIONAL WATERWAYS OF THE RED SEA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE SDR
CALLS ON THE WORLD AT LARGE AND ESPECIALLY FRIENDLY AND PEACE-LOVING
COUNTRIES TO FULLY SUPPORT HER, TO QUELL THE SINISTER INVASION
AGAINST THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. END QTE
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